proposed to be taken to provide incentives to the tourists in order to boost tourism which has suffered a set-back after the terrorist attacks in the United States in September this year ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Tourism in consultation with the travel trade, hotels and airlines has discussed the strategy to counter the set back suffered by the tourism industry following the recent terrorist attacks in the United States in September this year. Efforts have been made to send appropriate signals all over the world that India is a safe destination and marketing is also being reoriented by focussing on less effected markets and requesting the trade and industry to tap the potential of domestic tourism. All concerned in the tourism industry *viz.* hotels, travel agents, airlines etc. have been requested to give special boost to domestic tourism by promoting new facilities and infrastructure.

Development of tourism in NE Region

2408. SHRI C. APOK JAMIR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to explore the various possibilities for development of tourism places in NER;

(d) if so, the location-wise details thereof; and

(c) the necessary steps being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) Development of tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, Department of Tourism, Government of India provides Central financial assistance every year to the State Governments/UT Administrations for the projects identified in consultation with them which includes the projects at the places of tourist interest.

(b) During first three years of Ninth Plan, 280 projects amounting to Rs. 60.93 crores were sanctioned and an amount of Rs. 22.24 crores was released. A Statement showing the details is given (*See* below).

(c) The Department of Tourism, Government of India from time to time advise the State Governments/UT Administrations to complete the project expeditiously so as to improve the infrastructural facilities in respective States.

Statement

Project sanctioned, amount sanctioned and released to North Eastern Region including Sikkim during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	State	1998-99			1999-2000			2000-2001		
		No. of projects sancd.	Amt. sancd.	Amt. released	No. of projects sancd.	Amt. sancd.	Amt. released	No. of projects sancd.	Amt. sancd.	Amt. released
1	Assam	15	457.95	146.14	17	357.35	92.76	12	298.35	101.27
2	Arunachal Pradesh	6	216.31	65.55	11	239.28	70.20	8	90.00	26.94
3	Manipur	8	140.49	41.40	10	229.00	70.10	18	782.77	235.42
4	Meghalaya	5	120.48	37.50	6	80.72	20.26	5	105.59	36.10
5	Mizoram	8	203.34	137.95	13	297.23	157.01	13	309.19	95.33
6	Nagaland	11	230.54	97.60	16	302.90	179.89	8	156.53	53.04
7	Sikkim	15	136.03	61.42	13	118.98	43.57	33	376.49	127.43
8	Tripura	9	169.21	105.50	7	340.76	17.31	13	333.23	104.05
	TOTAL:	77	1674.35	693.06	93	1966.22	751.10	110	2452.15	779.58